

CLAIMS

1. An outside handle assembly for a vehicle door having an outer panel partially defining a door cavity, the outside handle assembly comprising:

a pull handle defining a pivot socket; and

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a pivot bracket rigidly mountable with respect to the door outer panel, a portion of the pivot bracket defining a pivot at least partially located within the pivot socket and about which the pull handle is pivotable between a first position and a second position.

2. The outside handle assembly of claim 1, wherein the pivot bracket includes a snap attachment feature insertable into a hole in the outer panel to retain the pivot bracket with respect to the outer panel.

3. The outside handle assembly of claim 1, wherein the pull handle defines a cavity having a first chamber and a second chamber; wherein the second chamber is the pivot socket; wherein the first chamber is open in the direction of the outer panel; and wherein the pivot bracket is at least partially located within the first chamber
5 and concealed from view from the exterior of the vehicle by the pull handle when the pull handle is in the first position.

4. The outside handle assembly of claim 1, wherein the pivot socket and the pivot bracket are sufficiently configured such that the pivot and the pivot socket are positioned outward with respect to the outer surface of the outer panel when the pivot bracket is rigidly mounted thereto.

5. The outside handle assembly of claim 1, further comprising a bezel rigidly mountable with respect to the door outer panel and spaced a distance apart from the pivot bracket; and a spring on the bezel biasing the pull handle into the first position.

6. The outside handle assembly of claim 5, further comprising a bell crank pivotably connected with respect to the bezel and engageable with a latch rod, a projection operatively connected to the pull handle and sufficiently positioned with respect to the bell crank such that the projection causes the bell crank to pivot when the
5 pull handle moves between the first position and the second position.

7. A vehicle door comprising:

an outer panel characterized by an outer surface at least partially defining the exterior surface of the door and an inner surface at least partially defining a door
5 cavity;

a pivot bracket having a pivot projecting therefrom, the pivot bracket being rigidly mounted with respect to the outer panel such that the pivot is positioned outboard of the outer surface;
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a bezel spaced a distance apart from the pivot bracket and rigidly mounted with respect to the outer panel, the bezel defining an aperture;

15 a pull handle, the pull handle defining a pivot socket at a first end in which the pivot is at least partially located and having a projection at a second end opposite the first end, the projection extending from the pull handle into the door cavity through the aperture in the bezel;

wherein the pull handle is pivotable about the pivot between a first
20 position and a second position.

8. The vehicle door of claim 7, wherein the pull handle defines a cavity having a first chamber and a second chamber; wherein the first chamber is open in the direction of the outer panel; wherein the second chamber is the pivot socket and is closed in the direction of the outer panel; and wherein a portion of the pivot bracket is 5 located within the first chamber.

9. The vehicle door of claim 8, wherein the pull handle conceals the pivot bracket from view from the exterior of the vehicle door when the pull handle is in the first position.

10. An outside handle assembly for a vehicle door having an outer panel characterized by an outer surface and an inner surface partially defining a door cavity, the handle assembly comprising:

5 a pull handle defining a cavity at one end and a projection on the other end, the cavity having a first chamber and a second chamber;

10 a pivot bracket adapted for rigid attachment to the outer panel, a first portion of the pivot bracket being positioned within the first chamber and a second portion of the pivot bracket being within the second chamber;

a bezel adapted for rigid attachment to the outer panel, the bezel defining an aperture through which the projection extends;

15 wherein the handle assembly is sufficiently configured such that (a) the projection extends from the pull handle into the door cavity, (b) the first portion and the

second portion of the pivot bracket are outward of the outer surface, (c) the first chamber
is open in the direction of the outer surface, (d) the second chamber is closed in the
direction of the outer surface, and (e) the pull handle is pivotable about the second
20 portion of the pivot bracket when the pivot bracket and the bezel are rigidly attached to
the outer panel.